

HEALTH NEWS

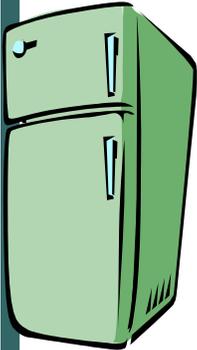


Promoting & Protecting
Your Health

Spring 2014

COMAL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Vaccine Storage and Handling



A great deal of time and effort is involved in vaccine storage and handling. Established protocols are crucial to prevent loss and vaccine mishandling. Vaccine storage & handling errors can lead to the loss of vaccine potency, resulting in a person having inadequate protection against a disease.

Immunization programs and medical providers adhere to written policies for routine storage & handling, as well as for emergency procedures. The use of proper storage equipment is vital to vaccine management. For instance, refrigerators and freezers are carefully monitored for regular maintenance and stabilized temperatures. Vaccine security is further enhanced with temperature alarms and back-up generators.

Typically, specific staff are designated as “vaccine managers” or “coordinators” to monitor vaccines in order to update policies, procedures, and to instruct other staff. Vaccines must be stored correctly; for instance, some are stored in the refrigerator and some in the freezer. Certain vaccines are light sensitive, making them vulnerable to damage.

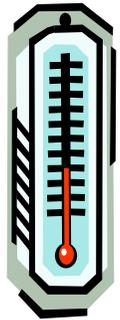
Vaccine managers make sure vaccines are stored in the refrigerator and freezers correctly, such as: acceptable vaccine spacing, right packaging, and location of the vaccines inside the units. Further, specific guidelines provide rules regarding labeling, and prohibiting the storage of non-vaccine products.

Vaccine managers oversee the correct disposal of expired vaccines, proper documentation,

and in some cases, ordering vaccine. Before vaccines arrive at a medical office, they are maintained in what's referred to as a “cold chain.” The cold chain pertains to vaccine transport, receiving, and the unpacking of vaccine to ensure proper temperature and protocols were followed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes the *Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit* to ensure vaccine quality and to provide information and guidance to all public and private medical providers.

At Comal County Public Health, we have designated vaccine managers, up-to-date program policies, and back-up generators. Our team of immunization clerks, nurses, program administrators, and vaccine managers, work together to form a commendable immunization program.



Vaccines for Adults with Chronic Health Conditions

Vaccines are especially critical for people with chronic health conditions. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious for people with chronic disease, causing complications that may lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and even death. Staying up to date with vaccines is an important step in protecting

health. Learn more about which vaccines you may need if you have any of these conditions: asplenia, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular disease, HIV, liver disease, lung disease, renal disease, or weakened immune system. Talk with your doctor to find out which vaccines are recommended for your protection based on your specific health status,

age, and lifestyle. from cdc.gov



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Did You Know?

There are existing vaccines that could stop rotavirus* and pneumonia—two conditions that kill nearly 3 million children under the age of 5 every year.

<http://www.one.org/us/stories/top-stories/>

*Rotavirus is a virus that infects the lining of the intestines.



Would you like to learn about vaccines from a global perspective?

The World Health Organization (WHO)

Vaccines Page

<http://who.int/topics/vaccines/en/>

Do you have a pet?

Include them when planning for emergencies!

Create a pet emergency supply kit that includes basic supplies, health records, a recent photo, and microchip information, among other things.

There is information and literature available to help you make a plan.

Call Chris Washington at Comal County Public Health.

(830) 221-1150



What is pandemic flu?

A "pandemic" is when a disease is spread from person to person throughout the world. A "pandemic flu" occurs when a new influenza virus spreads easily and very quickly, making a lot of people throughout the world sick.

http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/explore/hliving/pandemic_flu.htm



What is the HPV shot?

Did you know that by age 50, 80% of women will be infected with human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes cervical cancer? There are on average 9,710 new cases and 3,700 deaths from cervical cancer in the US every year.

There are *many* different kinds of HPV and not all of them cause health problems. Some kinds of HPV may cause problems like genital warts, while some kinds cause cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, or anus. Most of these problems are caused by HPV strains 6, 11, 16, or 18. While there is no cure for the HPV itself, there are treatments for the health problems that HPV can cause such as: genital warts, cervical changes, and cancers of the cervix, penis, anus, tongue, and tonsils.

Anyone who is sexually active is at risk of getting HPV, with many infections occurring among adolescents and young adults ages 15-24 years of age.

There are 2 types of vaccines available for the prevention of HPV: Cervarix and Gardasil. The three-dose HPV vaccine is given over a 6-month period. The first dose is given now, the second in 2 months, and the third 6 months after the first dose. The first dose is usually recommended for girls and boys ages 11-12. The vaccine can be given up to age 26.

For more information about the HPV vaccine, please talk with your medical provider or call Comal County Public Health.

Sources for this article: Texas Department of State Health Services, The Food and Drug Administration, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



As of December 2011, males have been encouraged to receive the HPV vaccine series.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the routine vaccination of males aged 13-21.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Volume 60, No. 50, December 23, 2011.



The Daughter of Which Famous Writer Died From Measles?

Olivia Dahl, daughter of Roald Dahl, the famous author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, died from encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) caused by measles at age 7, before the vaccine was available.

Upon Olivia's death, Roald Dahl became a vaccine advocate, and later wrote a piece called "Measles: A Dangerous Illness," in response to parents who refused to have their children vaccinated with the measles vaccine.

From: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Trivia Corner Archive www.chop.edu



Who determines that a vaccine is safe and effective, and ultimately licenses the vaccine?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Before the FDA licenses a vaccine, scientists and regulatory personnel within the FDA first determine whether the vaccine is safe and effective by evaluating data from clinical trials. If the FDA believes that more evidence is needed to prove a vaccine is safe and effective, they may ask for additional studies to be completed. From: www.chop.edu

To see the FDA's immunization webpage, go to:

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/default.htm>

ImmTrac Stores Immunization Records for *any Texan of Any Age*

The Benefits of Using ImmTrac (From: immtracforeveryone.com)

NO COST TO YOU. ImmTrac is a service from the State of Texas created by the Department of State Health Services.

SECURE. All the immunization records in ImmTrac are safe and secure. Only ImmTrac authorized facilities can access the immunization records.

CONFIDENTIAL. Before anyone can view and release your immunization history, he or she must have your signed authorization. Only a limited number of authorized health-care providers have access to view and release immunization records.

ELECTRONIC. ImmTrac is designed to enable the proper collection and storage of immunization records to make accurate immunization histories.

ACCESSIBLE TO AUTHORIZED HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS. Authorized ImmTrac health-care providers can access ImmTrac immunization histories with signed authorizations.

www.immtracforeveryone.com



You can safely store your immunization records in ImmTrac at no cost to you. Your records will be kept secure and confidential. Even if you got one vaccine at your doctor's office and another at your local pharmacy, you can electronically store all your immunization records in ImmTrac. Then, you will have one immunization history.

You can request a copy of your immunization history when you need it for college entrance requirements, military enlistment, travel, employment in health and safety fields, and other instances.

Your ImmTrac authorized health-care provider can access your immunization history and make sure you are not over-or-under-vaccinated. This way, you will be fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and save money by not paying for vaccines you do not need.

We have ImmTrac Specialists on Staff!

Comal County Public Health has two ImmTrac Outreach Specialists on staff that are here to assist you!

Maggie Moreno morenm@co.comal.tx.us
Annie Brown brownan@co.comal.tx.us

Or you can call them at 830-221-1150.

Texas Law requires that parents be offered the opportunity to "grant" or "deny" consent for participation in ImmTrac during the birth registration process.

This is usually conducted by a hospital birth registrar.



Promoting and Protecting Your Health

May 1796

Edward Jenner

Edward Jenner tested the hypothesis that infection with cowpox could protect a person from smallpox infection.

Cowpox is an uncommon illness in cattle, usually mild, that can be spread from a cow to humans via sores on the cow. During an infection, dairy workers may have pustules on their hands. Sufferers can spread the infection to other parts of the body.

We know now that the cowpox virus, *vaccinia*, belongs to the Orthopox family of viruses. Orthopox viruses also include monkeypox virus and *variola* viruses, which cause smallpox.

Jenner inoculated eight-year-old James Phipps with matter from a cowpox sore on the hand of milkmaid Sarah Nelmes. Phipps suffered a local reaction and felt poorly for several days but made a full recovery. In July 1796, Jenner inoculated Phipps with matter taken from a fresh human smallpox sore, as if he were variolating the boy, in an attempt to challenge the protection from cowpox. Phipps remained healthy. Jenner next demonstrated that cowpox matter transferred in a human chain, from one person to the next, provided protection from smallpox.

<http://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/scientific-method-vaccine-history>



We love to meet our community at area health fairs!

Please invite Comal County Public Health to participate at health fairs and special events.

How to Reach Us

178 East Mill Street,
Suite 210
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Phone: 830-221-1150
Fax: 830-620-3495

Web: www.co.comal.tx.us/health

Your Health Department Offers...

Call for an Appointment

Monday-Friday

(830) 221-1150

8am-5pm



- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Response to vaccinations and titers (Antibody titer is a laboratory test that measures the level of antibodies in a blood sample)
- HIV/AIDS information
- Screening for TB exposure
- Referrals for medical/social needs
- Confidential STD counseling.
- Adult Flu clinics
- Health Fair participation
- Community Education
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Provider for immunizations.
- Immunizations for local businesses
- Pregnancy testing

Bulverde Satellite Clinic

2nd Friday every other month

By appointment only

(830)221-1150

Minimum attendees required